

under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HEALTH CARE DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Thank you, Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity—we've had a pretty full day with a lot of debate on the floor regarding the health care legislation that's going to be coming to the floor on Sunday—and I wanted to read into the RECORD some correspondence that my office has received. First, is a letter from the Governor of Texas, received March 19, 2010. The Governor, says: Texans deserve affordable, high-quality health care, but not higher taxes, increased health insurance premiums and unprecedented mandates. It goes on to say, We recognize the need for true health care reform that controls rising costs and ensures hardworking Texans can afford health care for themselves and for their families. But government programs should not be the first place we look to expand coverage.

It goes on to say, In addition to the enormous cost to Texas, we believe the backroom negotiations and special deals that some congressional leaders have cut may well be unconstitutional. Additionally, it appears that congressional leaders might resort to employing an obscure parliamentary procedure to avoid an actual vote on the bill. This is not how the public expects legislation of this magnitude to be debated or enacted. It's signed, Governor Rick Perry, Governor of Texas.

A letter from Tommy Williams, who's the chairman of the administration committee of the State senate. He's also on the senate finance committee. He says, Recently, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission provided me with an analysis of the impact of President Obama's proposal on our state budget. It would, in a word, be devastating. The analysis estimates that the President's proposal would cost the State of Texas over \$24 billion over the next 10 years. This includes a \$6 billion reduction in available disproportionate share of funding for hospitals. Our State simply cannot afford an additional average cost of \$4 billion to \$5 billion per biennium over the 10 years it would take to implement this plan. Signed, Tommy Williams, State senator from Texas.

Attorney General Greg Abbott wrote to Senators HUTCHISON and CORNYN earlier this year in a very detailed correspondence about the problems he saw with the Senate bill as it was passed on Christmas Eve—and do remember it will be the Senate bill that will be here on the floor on Sunday. There will be a reconciliation bill to fix some of the things in there, but it will be the Senate bill, make no mistake about that. It will be the Senate bill that passes.

All of those technical corrections could just as easily pass by the wayside if the administration is not interested in fixing the problems in the Senate bill.

Nebraska compromise. We've heard a lot about that. The attorney general was concerned about the equal sovereignty and due process contained within the Cornhusker kickback, the Nebraska compromise. The individual mandate was particularly instructive. The attorney general talked about the commerce clause. And he concludes by saying, The individual mandate is constitutionally suspect because it does not fall within any of the normal categories.

The mandate provision in H.R. 3590 attempts to regulate a nonactivity. The legislation actually imposes a financial penalty upon Americans who choose not to engage in interstate commerce because they choose not to enter into a contract for health insurance. In other words, the proposed mandate would compel every American to engage in commerce by forcing them to purchase insurance and then use that coerced transaction as a basis for claiming authority under the commerce clause. That is Attorney General Greg Abbott from the State of Texas.

Now I have a list of many physician specialty societies that are opposed to this legislation. This list was current as of today. This list represents nearly 500,000 physicians in the United States of America—parenthetically, more than the American Medical Association. The dermatologists; plastic surgeons; eye doctors; head and neck surgeons; trauma surgeons; neurological surgeons; American College of OB-GYNs; the College of Osteopathic Surgeons; the American College of Surgeons; the American Academy of Orthopedics; the Society of Breast Surgeons; the Society of Anesthesiologists; American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery; colon and rectal surgeons; metabolic and bariatric surgeons; the American Urological Association; the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

State medical associations. That is not a complete list, but State medical associations: Alabama; Delaware; District of Columbia; Florida; Georgia; Kansas; Louisiana; Missouri; Medical Society of New Jersey; Ohio; South Carolina; Texas; and Tennessee. I will submit the entire list for the RECORD.

AMERICA'S PHYSICIANS DO NOT SUPPORT THE CURRENT HEALTH REFORM BILL VOTE NO

Physician Organizations Representing Nearly 500,000 Physicians (Many More than the AMA) Do Not Support the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

NATIONAL MEDICAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Dermatology Association, American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Congress of

Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, and American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

American Pediatric Surgical Association, American Society of Breast Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, American Society of General Surgeons, American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, American Urological Association, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, Heart Rhythm Society, National Association of Spine Specialists, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society for Vascular Surgery, Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, and Society of Surgical Oncology.

STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Medical Society of Delaware, Medical Society of the District of Columbia, Florida Medical Association, Medical Association of Georgia, Kansas Medical Society, Louisiana State Medical Society, Missouri State Medical Association, Medical Society of New Jersey, Ohio State Medical Association, South Carolina Medical Association, Texas Medical Association.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, after hearing the hysterics of my Republican colleagues over the last several days, I was reminded of the adage I've heard about the legal profession. It said that if you have the facts, pound on the facts. If you have the law, pound on the law. But if you have neither the facts nor the law, pound on the table.

I give my Republican colleagues credit for doing a remarkable job of pounding on the table for the last few months. I've heard my colleagues saying outlandish things about how we're doing violence to the Constitution and sticking our fingernails in the eyes of the American public. But it's all an elaborate distraction from what the real debate is about. What we're talking about is what happens when you don't have health insurance.

I heard a story last week that I think gets to the heart of what we're doing and why we're doing it. It's about a family of five, including a newborn child, that's going through a rough patch. When the baby was born, the mother's employer didn't offer her maternity leave, so she was unable to earn an income. When the father's entire drywall crew was laid off because there was simply no work, the family lost their income, aside from the unemployment benefits her husband received. All five of them had to move into a relative's living room. And when stress and strain caused the mother to stop producing breast milk, she had to buy formula that she couldn't afford.